

**REMARKS**

Initially, Applicants' attorney notes that, as required by Rule 1.121, the claims to be amended by this Election and Amendment have been presented above, with amendments in clean form, as well as in the final page of this Election and Amendment in marked-up form to show the changes made.

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. §121 between the following inventions:

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 (Group I): drawn to methods of preparing stabilized solutions of maleimide and acrylonitrile.

Claim 3 (Group II): drawn to a method of storage of solutions of maleimide and acrylonitrile in an oxygen defined atmosphere and contact with a metal.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. It is applicants' position that both groups are so closely related that they do not require further search. Furthermore, the examiner's interpretation of the relationships of the subject matter of the claims is not correct. The examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to recitals 1-9 as set forth on pages 3-5 of the specification which clearly point out the unseparable relationship of the two groups of claims.

Nevertheless in compliance with the requirements of the rule, Applicants elect Group II or claim 3 and the newly added sub-claims there under, to be prosecuted in the present application.

In view of the foregoing election, examination on the merits is respectfully requested. Should there remain any questions or other matters whose resolution could be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorney at his number below.

If there are any additional fees due as a result of this Amendment, including extension fees, the Examiner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 19-1218. Enclosed is a Petition for a one-month extension of time for response to and including January 21, 2003, for which a \$110 fee is due. The Petition authorizes the Examiner to charge this \$110 fee to Deposit Account No. 19-1218.

Respectfully Submitted,

SELITTO, BEHR & KIM

By: Omri M. Behr  
Reg. No. 22,940

SELITTO, BEHR & KIM  
203 Main Street  
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840  
(732) 744-1001

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES**

**In the Claims:**

New Claims 8-15 have been added.